

Direct Investment (FDI) during the year 1998-99 have been US\$ 3.54 billion and for the year 1999-2000, the same have been US\$ 3.66 billion. The details of year-wise inflow are incorporated in the Monthly SIA Newsletter brought out by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, which is widely circulated including the Library of the House.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. It has been the endeavour of the Government to attract more and more FDI and latest technology. The FDI policy is reviewed from time to time in order to make it more investor-friendly. In the recent past, the Government has permitted FDI/NRI/OCB investment upto 100% in all items/activities under automatic route except a specified negative list. Further, prior approval of RBI for FDI proposals under Automatic/FIPB route has been dispensed with. In a very recent decision, the Government has also done away with the upper limit of investment in Power Sector and the condition of Dividend Balancing.

**Removal of a number of items from the list of industries reserved for SSI**

16. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lately been considering removal of a number of items from the list of industries reserved for Small Scale Industries;

(b) whether there have been consistent pressures from various quarters including foreign trade and industry for scrapping of the list of industries reserved for Small Scale Sector; and

(c) what decisions have since been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) Reservation/de-reservation of items from the list of items reserved for manufacture in the Small Scale Sector is an ongoing process with the Government. There have been demands from various quarters including industry associations for de-reservation of items, reserved for manufacture in the Small Scale Sector. However, Government takes decisions on these matters having regard to factors like development/promotion of industries, export, employment potential, etc.